

# Black Infant Health Program 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report

## I. Reason for Investigation

The Grand jury elected to review the Black Infant Health Program.

## II. Procedure

The Grand Jury:

- Interviewed manager and administrator of the Black Infant Health Program
- Toured Vallejo facility
- Reviewed program planning and implementation evaluation reports for 1994, 1998 and 2001

## III. Background

1. The Black Infant Health Program (BIHP) in Solano County Health and Social Services Department, receives federal, state and county funds. The average cost is \$2,000.00 per year for one mother and infant. The Board of Supervisors appoints the African-American Health Committee which serves as an advisory board to the program.

2. The program was established to address the high death rate of black infants in Vallejo and Fairfield and to ensure that black babies are born healthy. There are 17 similar programs in counties throughout the State.

3. Eligibility for BIHP is that the mother must be black, age 19 or older and reside in one of the designated Zip Codes (94589, 94590, 94591 and 94533). Three hundred individuals are served each year by helping the mothers obtain prenatal care through such service as Medi-Cal and Medicare. Black Infant Health Program provides life skills training and is a part of the Federal Welfare-to-Work program.

4. BIHP has shown some success. In 1989, the Solano County death rate for black infants was 157 per thousand (16%). In 2002, the death rate was 108 per thousand (11%).

## IV. Finding and Recommendation

*Each finding is referenced to the background paragraph number*

**Finding # 1** – The Black Infant Health Program in the Solano County Health and Social Services Department has shown some success. (4)

**Recommendation** – Continue this program.

## Affected Agency

- Black Infant Health Program